



Kent Metro Cold Case Team

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NEWS RELEASE

COLD CASE TEAM SOLVES 13 YEAR OLD HOMICIDE

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Investigators from the Kent Metro Cold Case Team have named a Grand Rapids man who died in 2004 as the person responsible for the 2001 homicide of Julene Walker.

John Robbins Slazinski, then 66, is accused of fatally stabbing Julene Walker after an altercation. The body of Julene Walker, 35, was found on March 25, 2001 in an industrial area at 675 Chestnut Street S.W.

In 2001, Investigators worked this homicide until their leads went cold. The case was reopened in 2002 when investigators took Slazinski's DNA after he looked similar to the suspect composite. Investigator's obtained a search warrant for his DNA after Slazinski refused to give consent. Slazinski denied knowing the victim or having involvement in this case. No DNA match was made.

In 2011, investigators from the Kent Metro Cold Case Team took another look at the case. Due to advancements in forensic science, Slazinski's DNA was resubmitted to the Michigan State Police Crime Lab. His DNA was linked to evidence in the Walker homicide. Investigators learned Slazinski died of cancer in 2004. Cold case investigators continued their investigation and developed additional evidence against Slazinski.

Recently, investigators presented the full investigation to the Kent County Prosecutor's Office. After a thorough review, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office has concluded that, in all reasonable likelihood, investigators have solved the murder of Julene Walker. Based on the evidence initially gather by the Grand Rapids Police Department, and the follow-up investigation conducted by the Kent Metro cold Case Team, it is reasonable to conclude that John Robbins Slazinski committed the murder. Because Slazinski died in 2004 from lung cancer, no further investigation will be done and no charges will be filed.

This is the 15th homicide solved by the Kent Metro Cold Case Team since it was formed in 2006. The team consists of detectives from the Michigan State Police, Kent County Sheriff's Department and the Grand Rapids Police Department.

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